

## **Product Development Plan for a mRNA Dengue Vaccine**

**Mohammad Mainul Ahasan** 

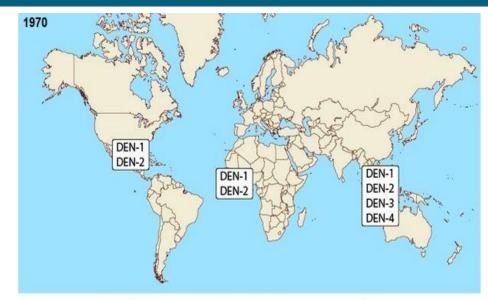


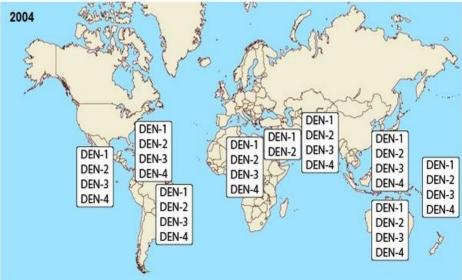
# **Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd**



## **Global Dengue Burden**

- First isolated in 1943, increasing concern with rapid urbanization
- At present, endemic in more than 100 countries
- 100-400 million infections/year with 96 million clinical manifestation
- Almost half of world's population at risk
- Asia represents 70% of global disease burden



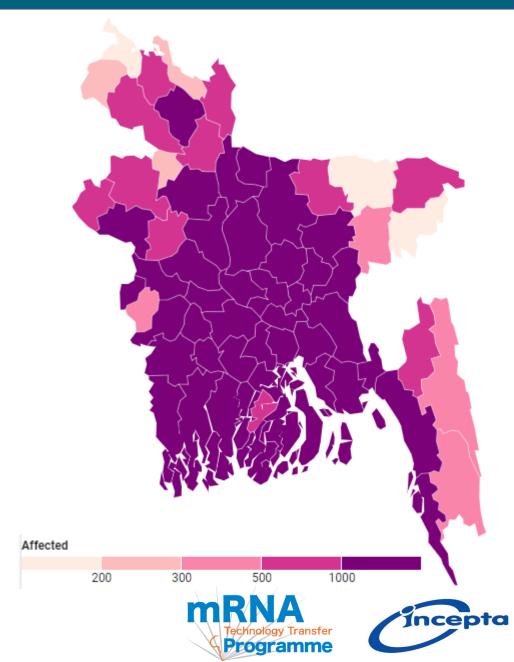






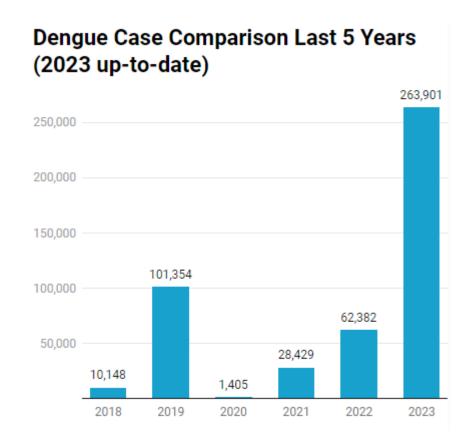
## Dengue in Bangladesh

- Geographical location, weather, population density contributing together high number of cases
- First outbreak reported in 2000, resulted 5551 cases including 93 deaths
- Mostly limited to capital Dhaka and very few metropolitan cities
- In 2023, distributed all over the country



## **Current Dengue status in Bangladesh**

- Dengue is costing tremendous disease
   burden each year
- In last 24 hours, 263901 hospitalization and 11 deaths
- Three main reason of high disease burden
  - ✓ No available vaccine
  - ✓ No available therapeutics for seriously ill hospitalized patients
  - ✓ No effective vector control strategy







## **Bangladesh: Dengue Hotspot and Global Warning!**

- In 2023, Bangladesh (170 million population) has
   2.6 times higher cases than neighboring country
   India (1.4 billion population)
- Among South-East Asia, Bangladesh is experiencing maximum dengue cases and deaths this year
- In the week of 36, US reported maximum number of dengue cases (78), while Bangladesh reported 2575
- Without vaccine research and trials, this situation can bring catastrophic disaster globally

Region/Country	Cases	Deaths	
USA	1,289.00	-	
Europe (Italy, France & Spain)	74.00	-	
India	94,198.00	91.00	
Bangladesh	247,032.00	1,206.00	





- For more than 75 years, scientists and product developers have attempted to design and advance safe and efficacious vaccine candidates.
- Challenges have been substantial and formidable
  - ✓ Existence of four DENV types (1–4), each capable of causing infection
  - ✓ No validated immune correlate of protection
  - ✓ Animal models do not comprehensively recapitulate the human dengue infection experience
  - ✓ Immunologic assays are unable to precisely define DENV type-specific immune responses
  - ✓ Requirement for very large efficacy trials to demonstrate benefit across diverse populations and clinical endpoints





Nameª	Year <sup>b</sup>	Valence <sup>c</sup>	Vaccine formulation	Developer/manufacturer	Evaluation	Adjuvanted
Dengvaxia	2015	Tetravalent	Chimeric viruses YFV/DEN 1-4	Sanofi Pasteur	Licensed	No
TV003/TV005	2003	Tetravalent	Three genetically attenuated viruses and one chimeric virus	NIAID <sup>d</sup> and Butantan <sup>e</sup>	In vivo (phase IIIB)	No
TAK-003	2006	Tetravalent	Chimeric viruses DEN-2 PDK-53, DEN -1,-3, or -4	Takeda	In vivo (phase II) To be licensed in Indonesia in 2023	No
TDEN	2017	Tetravalent	Viruses attenuated with passages in PDK cells	WRAIR <sup>f</sup> and GlaxosmithKline	In vivo (phase I-II)	No
DPIV	2012	Tetravalent	Purified inactivated viruses (DEN 1–4), Aluminium hydroxide AS01, AS03 or AS04 adjuvants	WRAIR, GllaxosmithKline and FIOcruz <sup>g</sup>	In vivo (phase I)	Yes
TVDV	2018	Tetravalent	DNA vaccine based on prM and E protein coding sequences cloned in VR1012 plasmid and co-administered with VAXFECTIN as an adjuvant	U.S. AMRDC <sup>h</sup> , WRAIR, NMRC and Vical	<i>In vivo</i> (animal and phase I)	Yes
V180	2018	Tetravalent	Recombinant proteins based on prM and 80% of E protein of DEN 1–4 combined with different adjuvants	Merck and Co.	In vivo (phase I)	Yes
DSV4	2018	Tetravalent	Virus like particles expressing EDIII of DEN 1–4	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology	<i>In vivo</i> (animal)	No
E80-mRNA	2020	Tetravalent	mRNA expressing human IgE and E80 protein packaged into LNP	CAS laboratory of Molecular Virology and Immunology, Institute Pasteur of Shanghai	<i>In vivo</i> (animal)	No

#### Platforms

- ✓ Live attenuated
- ✓ Inactivated
- ✓ Protein subunit
- ✓ DNA
- ✓ mRNA

Only live attenuated virus vaccines have achieved licensure or reached advanced clinical development





PMID: 36857199

#### Denvaxia

- ✓ First licensed vaccine; 20 countries
- ✓ **Poor protection** in children under age of 9 years
- ✓ Lower protection against **DENV1 & 2**; predominant Ab response against **DENV4**

#### TAK-003

- ✓ Licensed in Indonesia this year to be used in people 4 years of age and older regardless of **baseline** dengue immune status
- ✓ No protection in seronegative recipients against all dengue and hospitalized dengue due to **DENV3**
- ✓ No conclusive data for **DENV4** due to low event numbers during trial

#### LATV TV003/TV005

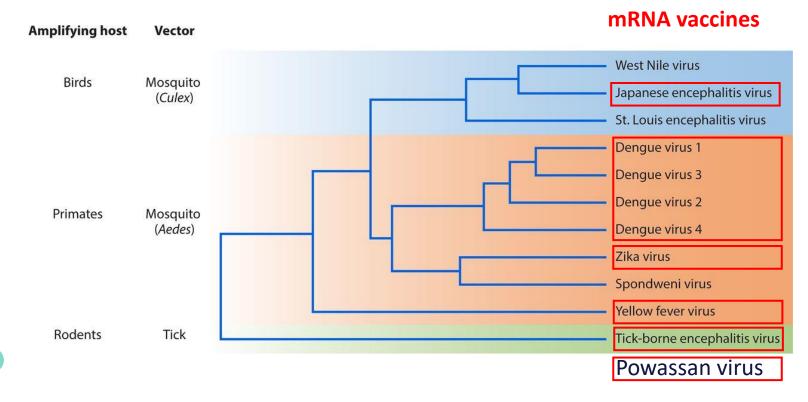
- ✓ Initiated Phase 3 study in 2016 with 16,000 volunteers in Brazil
- ✓ Efficacy data is only available for **DENV1** (89.5%) and **DENV2** (69.6%) due to the low circulation of types **DENV3** and **4** during the trial

A more effective vaccine that can generate heterotypic nAb against all four DENV serotypes is still needed



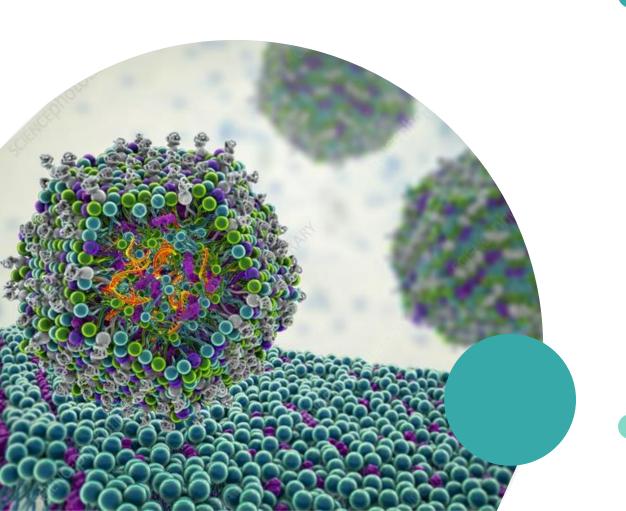


 Recent advances have updated the mRNA vaccine development of many flaviviruses









- Partnership with Prof. Drew Weissman Lab at University of Pennsylvania
- New R&D lab dedicated for mRNA by Q1 2024
- mRNA GMP production facility in design phase
- Capability to produce raw materials for mRNA production

  ✓ T7 RNA polymerase

  ✓ dNTPs

  - ✓ Cap analog





### **DENV mRNA vaccine development timetable**



Project goals & schedule is stablished



Immunogens selection & design

Bioinformatics

Experiment design

Project kickoff



Vector generation

Vector production



mRNA vaccine production

mRNA production Expression & QC

assessment



mRNA vaccine encapsulation

Encapsulation in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs)



Pre-clinical studies

Mice & monkey immunization

DENV challenge



Data acquisition and analysis

Ab (Total & nAb)

& T cell responses

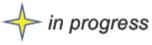
ADE assessment

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Phase IN











## **DENV mRNA vaccine project team**

Project leader: Xiomara Mercado-López, Ph.D., MPH

Research technicians:

Wendy Bonilla-Acosta, M.S.

Valeria Bornacelli, M.S.



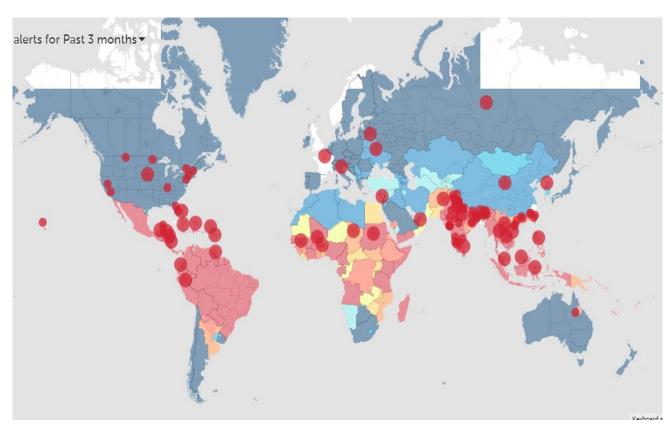


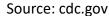




## **Vaccine Research and Trial Opportunities**

- Bangladesh had hosted world largest measlesrubella vaccination campaign
- High vaccine acceptance rate among common people. Ranked among top 15 countries for COVID-19 vaccination
- Vaccine research and manufacturing facility at disposal (e.g. Incepta Pharmaceutical Ltd.)
- Globally recognized CRO for trials (e.g. icddr'b)









## Acknowledgements

- University of Pennsylvania
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# THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

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